

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 27, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MALLORY submitted the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the papers relating to the claim of Eldridge Lawton, have had the same under consideration and report:*

Mr. Lawton was ordered to the United States steamer "John Hancock," one of the vessels detailed for service in the late surveying expedition to Behring's Straits, North Pacific and China seas, as first assistant engineer, and served on board that vessel without a senior for three years, performing, as he alleges, the duties of chief engineer. He, therefore, asks the difference between the pay of first assistant engineer and chief engineer.

The facts, as obtained from the Navy Department, are, that the "John Hancock," by her rating, was only entitled, in the "complement tables," to a first assistant engineer as principal engineer, and as such Mr. Lawton was ordered, and not to perform the duties of a higher grade.

Your committee can find no grounds for allowing the claimant the additional compensation he asks, he having simply performed the duties of his grade, with the usual complement of junior assistants to aid him, and in a vessel to which the regulations of the Navy Department denied an officer of higher rank than that held by him. They, therefore, report adversely to his request, and ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

